The Southern PATRIOT

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TRENDS

Figures Not Usually Reported

Behind the miners' memorial week work stoppages are these figures: 1,015 lives lost and 55,000 accidents last year; 45,000 miners killed in last 30 years; a death rate for miners of 15.1% against a national average of 10.3

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The South Carolina legislature passed a bill which will submit the poll tax to the people of the state as a referendum in 1950. In that state the poll tax is required as a prerequisite for voting in the general elections but not in the primary where the real election takes place in a one-party state.

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Austin—By a vote of 125 to 10 the House of Representatives of the Texas legislature passed an anti-lynch bill and the measure is expected to become law. Penalties range from 5 years to death sentence.

A delegation representing the Methodist Women's Society for Christian Service called on the Governor and urged repeal of the state poll tax law.

WHAT AN AMATEUR WAS KING CANUTE!

Filibuster Ends With Minority Rule More Firmly Entrenched

It is ironic and ominous that the filibuster, which began in an effort to establish majority rule, presumably to smooth the way for civil rights legislation, actually ended with minority rule more firmly entrenched than ever before.

Previously debate on a measure could be ended by a simple two-thirds majority of the Senators present and voting. Under the terms of the Wherry resolution ending the filibuster (by a 63-29 vote), cloture may be invoked at any point in the course of a debate but only by a constitutional majority, that is two-thirds of the entire Senate. Before as few as 33 votes could end debate, now it requires 64 votes. Furthermore, cloture may not be invoked at all in any new attempt to change the Senate rules.

The first test vote in the Senate battle over the civil rights program came when the Senate voted to reject Senator Barkley's ruling that cloture could be invoked against the rule to take up S.R. 15, the Hayden-Wherry Resolution.

Four Southern Senators broke ranks with the Dixiecrats and voted to sustain Sen. Barkley's ruling: Estes Kefauver (Tenn.), Claude Pepper (Fla.), Garrett Withers (Ky.), and Elmer Thomas (Okla.)

The 50 votes to reject the Vice-President's ruling were evenly divided between Republicans and Democrats. Of the 25 Democratic Senators voting to reject the ruling 21 were from Southern States and 4 from non-Southern States. The 4 Senators from non-Southern States were Ernest McFarland and Carl Hayden (Ariz.), Pat McCarran (Nev.), and Guy Gillette (Iowa.) If the Administration had been able to control only 3 of these 4 votes, the ruling would have been sustained 48 to 47.

This debate provided a unique spectacle of the two sponsors of a bill voting against a move which might have permitted the Senate to vote on their bill. Sen. Kenneth Wherry, Republican of Nebraska and Sen. Carl Hayden, Democrat of Arizona, bi-partisan sponsors of S.R. 15 to limit filibusters, both voted to reject Sen. Barkley's ruling.

On the 63 Senators voting for the Wherry Resolution, 29 were Democrats (18 Southerners and 11 from border and western states), and 34 were Republicans. Of the 4 Southerners who voted to sustain Barkley's ruling earlier in the debate, only one, Sen. Pepper (Fla.) was present and voting at the end against the Wherry "compromise."

Some Remaining Questions

In the meantime millions of citizens, including 14 million Negroes, concerned with strengthening our democracy by establishing majority rule, are left with many questions, including: (1) Why did Administration leaders permit the filibuster to proceed in so leisurely a fashion instead of round-the-clock sessions? (2) Why did the President decide to use a fishing pole as his strongest weapon in the fight? (3) Why did the Republican Party so cynically betray its platform pledge on civil rights in this crucial test? (4) Why did the Republican leaders Taft, Dewey, et al, remain silent? (5) What will be the fate of further social legislation in the face of this Republicrat coalition?

Students Fight Discrimination And Jim Crow Education

In a short, routine story one March morning the New Orleans *Times-Picayune* stated that a native son, Joseph Epstein, Jr., had been elected president of a Southerners Club newly organized at the University of Michigan; Ann Cotton of Laurel, Mississippi, was elected vice-president, and Paul McGough, a Negro student, home not specified, was elected secretary.

The next morning a bold headline in the *Picayune* announced solemnly that the New Orleans youth had resigned as president after talking with his father who made a hasty airplane trip to Ann Arbor, and the Mississippi girl decided to resign after talking to her father, leaving the Negro student as the sole surviving officer of the infant club.

The Ann Arbor incident is unusual. Elsewhere about the Nation, both North and South, students are scanning the patterns of racial segregation and other social, economic and political legacies of their elders with a critical eye and are forming and maintaining independent judgments. There is nothing new about this. Were it otherwise, there would be little need for colleges and universities.

There is ample evidence that if students shared with their elders authority for educational policy, discriminatory practices would be sharply diminished now. Educational admission practices would be brought into closer harmony with the democratic dogma expounded in the class-room.

Students Lead in Progressive Action

Almost daily there is encouraging confirmation that students are insisting that people be judged by character and ability in the democratic American tradition, rather than by superficial standards of color or class.

Students at McGill University, Toronto, elected the daughter of a Negro sleeping car porter as Queen of their winter carnival; Harvard and Yale elected Negroes as the Manager and Captain respectively of their football teams; students of the University of South Carolina demonstrated against a public meeting of the Klan; while in Oklahoma students are taking an active part in the fight being waged to open state institutions to Negroes.

Missouri Students Vote Against Jim Crow

On many college campuses of Southern States recent student and faculty polls have shown a majority in favor of admitting Negro students to white institutions. At the University of Missouri in March in one of the largest student polls even taken on race, 6,003 votes were cast. Seven out of ten voted to admit Negroes, 4,156 against 1,847.

Students at the University of Missouri went beyond the University's Board of Curators which recently recommended to the State legislature that colored students be admitted to the university "in those divisions and curricula where instruction of equivalent character is not offered at Lincoln University."

Meanwhile at St. Louis, Washington University's School of Social Work has admitted 8 Negro students, and the State Teachers Association voted to admit Negro teachers into membership for the first time.

In the Missouri Legislature

This democratic trend was reflected in a report by the House Equal Rights Committee of the Missouri Legislature. It called for an end to segregation in higher education, the establishment of a permanent state civil rights commission, and dealt in detail with segregation in primary and secondary schools, exclusion of Negroes from the National Guard, and Jim Crow unions.

"The root of the problem," it said, "is the method which we undertake to say to a minor segment of citizens . . . (they) cannot go certain places and enjoy certain rights of citizenship despite the basic constitutional guaranty that all citizens are free and equal."

It recommended as a first step eradication of those statutes and policies flowing from them which give discrimination the color of legal sanctity as a mater of state policy.

* * *

Liberalized Wage-Hour Act Approved

The House Labor Committee by a 13-12 vote has reported out the Administration bill to liberalize the Wage-Hour Act. The bill provides for a 75c an hour minimum in place of the present 40c, extends the coverage to industries heretofore excluded, strengthens control of child labor and plugs loopholes. Although the proposed bill will benefit the South more than any other region through increased purchasing power and limiting sweat-shop conditions, three Southern Democrats, Barden N. C.), Wood (Ga.), and Lucas (Tex.) teamed up with 9 Republican members of the Committee in an effort to prevent the liberalized bill from reaching the floor of the House. Supporting the majority were Perkins (Ky.), Sims (S.C.), and Steed (Okla.)

* * *

Kentucky CIO to Fight Jim Crow Schools

Louisville—William B. Taylor, regional director of the CIO, speaking to a tri-state meeting of the United Automobile Workers fair practices committee, stated that the CIO would fight to end racial segregation in Louisville Schools and would work for a state civil rights law. William H. Oliver, Co-Director of the UAW fair practices committee, stated that "getting schools on a nondiscriminatory basis" is the first step in removing discrimination in other fields.

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Who Is My Brother?

In many communities in February the National Conference of Christians and Jews sponsored the observance of Brotherhood Week and the Federal Council of Churches inspired many churches to hold a Brotherhood Sunday. In an increasing number of communities this year these special services included representatives of different races whereas in the past in many cities the right hand of fellowship did not reach across racial lines. In Staunton, Va., an overflow crowd of more than 1,000 persons attended an unsegregated brotherhood service in Trinity Episcopal Church, one of the oldest churches in the State, having been founded in 1746.

In Shawnee and other cities in Oklahoma, Brotherhood Week was an occasion for services that brought together members of all faiths and races.

But in Tallahasee, Dr. James E. Hudson, Negro minister and chaplain of Florida A. & M. College, took a rather dim view of the state of brotherhood in the capital city of Florida. He had been invited by the Rev. T. A. Corbett to give the Sunday night sermon at the Capital Christian Church as part of Brotherhod Week observances. A few hours before his appearance the church board of directors cancelled the talk on the ground that it might "cause controversy" in the white congregation.

At Miami the Rev. Donald Douds, minister of Miami Shores Community Church, faced dismissal from his pulpit because of his invitation to the Rev. Edward Graham, Negro minister of Zion Baptist Church. Chairman L. F. Ward of the Community Church Board said the real issue was whether the congregation wished to keep a pastor who created a serious division in the membership. Rev. Douds denied such a division, saying there was "only a small dissatisfied minority." At a meeting of the congregation it was voted to retain Rev. Douds.

* * *

Color Blind But Good

Atlanta—Grady Hospital's Steiner Annex will be converted into an eye clinic for Negro and white patients, following unanimous agreement of Fulton and DeKalb County authorities. The proposed clinic will be named after the late Dr. Grady Clay and will function as a consolidation of the present separate Negro and white clinics. Equipment and the director's salary will be furnished by the Grady Clay Foundation.

Oklahoma Conference Takes Strong Stand on Civil Rights

The fight to strengthen civil rights in Oklahoma was given renewed impetus by a statewide conference of about 300 delegates at a meeting at the YWCA of Oklahoma City.

Action taken by the conference included a call for the immediate elimination of segregation in higher education, opposition to all forms of segregated regional education, endorsement of the Monticello Declaration of Civil Rights, support for the bill sponsored by the NAACP to repeal those state laws standing in the way of the admission of Negroes to state colleges and universities, and opposiiton to loyalty oaths for students and teachers.

Mr. Irwin Lee Glatstein, Director of the Hillel Foundation at the University of Oklahoma served as chairman for the conference and speakers included Professor Henry Foster of the Law School faculty of the University of Oklahoma, Dr. James a Dombrowski, Director of the Southern Conference Educational Fund, and the Rev. T. H. McDonald, Regional Director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. The Rev. Donald Black, vice-president of the Oklahoma Council of Churches gave the invocation.

Greetings to the Conference were given by James Stewart, president of the Oklahoma City NAACP; Cenora Johnson, executive secretary of the Urban League; Robert Lee, chairman of the Oklahoma Committee on Democracy in Education; Louis Pakiser, Chairman Southwestern District of the American Veterans Committee; Carl von der Lancken, state director of the Progressive Party, and by representatives of the Norman Ministerial Alliance and the Oklahoma Council of Church Women.

Strong student delegations attended representing 12 colleges and universities of the state.

The conference worked through four seminars on Segregation in Higher Education, Neil Hendricks, Oklahoma A&M, Chairman; General Segregation and Civil Rights, Paul Walker, Phillips University, Chairman; Academic Freedom, Henry Floyd, Langston University, Chairman; Academic Freedom, Henry Floyd, Langston University, Chairman; and Loyalty Oaths and Investigations, Orville Sandlin, Oklahoma A&M, Chairman.

It was agreed that all organizations in the state concerned with civil rights would be invited to form a permanent council to coordinate a campaign for civil rights on the state level.

Scene at the Oklahoma City YWCA where 300 delegates met in a conference on civil rights that called for admission of Negroes to state institutions of higher learning and an end to all forms of discrimination.